

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine



2011 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH) SUMMER INSTITUTE PROGRAM

"LANDMARKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE" WORKSHOPS

***A Program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the
U.S. Department of State***

March 18, 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine is pleased to announce a open competition for the *2011 Landmarks of American History and Culture* workshops, under the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Institute Program. This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of (ECA). The application deadline is April 6, 2011. U.S. Embassy Kyiv will be allowed to nominate only four Ukrainians to participate.

These six innovative, experiential, one-week seminars focusing on U.S. political history will take place in the U.S. in June and July 2011. This highly competitive program is designed for secondary school educators who teach social studies, civics, journalism, and related academic areas. (Note: These workshops are not really aimed at teachers of English, *unless* they regularly incorporate discussions of the above-mentioned areas in their classrooms.) The program is also open to the heads of cultural or educational institutions that strive to promote civic debate and public discussions through their programs, exhibits or other activities.

ECA, in collaboration with the NEH, will bring 18 international visitors to the U.S. to participate in the 2011 "Landmarks of American History and Culture" workshops. The international participants will engage with elementary and secondary school teachers from the U.S. in intensive study and discussion of important topics in American history and culture. These one-week academies are designed to give participants direct experience in the interpretation of significant historical sites and the use of archival and other primary historical information. Participants will then be able to develop enhanced lesson plans and teaching materials for use in their home countries.

International visitors will participate in a three-day orientation program in Washington, D.C., administered by ECA's grantee organization, the Academy for Educational Development (AED). They will then spend 5-7 days at the workshops in New York, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Following their workshops, participants will again return to Washington for two additional days of discussions.

All participants in 2011 NEH Summer Institutes must be comfortable with cross-cultural dynamics and interested in close interaction with other humanities professionals from diverse countries and cultures. They will have a chance to develop their knowledge of U.S. history and culture, share their impressions of similarities and differences between their home countries and U.S. society, and must be committed to organize follow-up activities or programming in their home country in order to share their American experience with a wider audience.

NEH Summer Institutes Program Description:

Brief summaries of the six interesting workshops are listed below. Further details are available on the NEH website at <http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html>:

A) "Crafting Freedom: Black Artisans, Entrepreneurs, and Abolitionists in the Antebellum Upper South"

June 23-28, 2011. North Carolina.

Locations: The Union Tavern, home and shop of the celebrated free black cabinetmaker Thomas Day (1801-ca. 1861); the Burwell School, girlhood home of the formerly enslaved dressmaker-turned-Lincoln White House-insider Elizabeth Keckly (1817-1907); and Stagville, a major 19th-century tobacco plantation with intact slave quarters and other slave-built structures.

B) "A Rising People: Benjamin Franklin and the Americans"

July 10-15, 2011. Pennsylvania.

Locations: Independence Hall and Independence National Historical Park; Franklin Court; Philadelphia's African burial ground; rare book libraries including the American Philosophical Society, Library Company of Philadelphia, and Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Old City and Society Hill; and historic houses including Elfreth's Alley, Stenton, Woodford, and the Powel House.

C) "Abolitionism, Women's Rights, and Religious Revivalism on the Rochester Reform Trail"

July 17-23, 2011. New York.

Locations: The Strong National Museum of Play; the Erie Canal; the Susan B. Anthony House; Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Gravesites at Mount Hope Cemetery; Seneca Falls National Historic Park; Charles Grandison Finney's Third Presbyterian Church; Frederick Douglass, North Star Offices and Historic Sites; The Douglass Papers at Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester.

D) "Abraham Lincoln and the Forging of Modern America"

July 18-22, 2011. Illinois.

Locations: Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville and sites in Springfield (Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, Lincoln Law Office, and Lincoln Home) and New Salem Village.

E) "America's Industrial Revolution at the Henry Ford Museum"

July 17-22, 2011. Michigan.

Locations: Henry Ford Museum; Greenfield Village; Benson Ford Research Center; Ford Rouge Factory Tour.

F) "A Revolution in Government: Philadelphia, American Independence, and the Constitution, 1765-1791"

July 18-22, 2011. Pennsylvania.

Locations: National Constitution Center; Independence Hall; Franklin Court; Carpenter,s Hall; and other sites in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Applicant criteria

The candidate should be a secondary school teacher with academic responsibilities in civics, social studies, world and/or U.S. history, geography, journalism, or related fields. Equally acceptable would be professionals with a need to increase their understanding of U.S. history and culture, including directors of historical and cultural organizations. Candidates must be proficient in English and have little or no prior experience in the United States.

He or she should come from a school or institution that is seeking to enhance the teaching of U.S. Studies or examination of American history and society, by developing new courses, by improving and updating existing courses on the United States, and/or by offering specialized seminars/workshops for professionals or the general public. Professionals of historical and cultural organizations might think about how they could use this experience in future programs about the United States, or how to use to promote public debate over political and social issues.

The ideal candidate will be in a position to follow-up with additional activity in his/her city or oblast/region to reach a wider audience upon his or her return to Ukraine.

The Application Process

After deciding on which workshop is of most interest, the candidate should:

1. Complete an application form, which is available at no charge from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy by sending an email to ShyloLP@state.gov.

2. In addition to the application, candidates will need to submit:

- a) A **résumé** or **curriculum vitae (CV)**;
- b) A **“Statement of Purpose”** essay that would specify the following:
 - 1) Why the candidate is interested in the selected NEH workshop, including how it is relevant to his/her work and/or personal interests;
 - 2) What the candidate believes he/she might gain from participating in this workshop in the U.S.;
 - 3) Potential results from his/her participation in the program, particularly how her/she could incorporate this NEH workshop experience:
 - i) [FOR TEACHERS] into his/her teaching, as well as how he/she plans to disseminate this knowledge to other teachers in the school and the oblast, and ideally in the general community more broadly;
 - ii) [FOR HEADS OF CULTURAL OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS] into his/her work as a head of a historical or cultural institution, specifying what types of programs, exhibitions, and/or other activities he/she could establish back home to promote increased public debate or civic discourse in Ukraine on historical, social, political and/or other current issues.
- c) OPTIONAL: A **letter of recommendation**. (This is not required.)

Deadline for receiving applications is April 6, 2011.

Please send the complete application packet to ShyloLP@state.gov.

The Embassy will conduct phone interviews the following week with semi-finalists.